



Federal Communications Commission
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Washington, D.C. 20554

03-123
CGB

MAY 10 2005

Control No. 0500892-DRO

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
U. S. House of Representatives
59 Elm Street
New Haven, CT 06510

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

JUN 08 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Congresswoman DeLauro:

Thank you for your letter of April 19, 2005, to the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC), on behalf of your constituent, Ms. Ariela Stein, expressing her concerns regarding Video Relay Service (VRS), a form of telecommunications relay service (TRS). Your correspondence was forwarded to the Commission's Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau for handling.

Ms. Stein's letter discusses the issue of interoperability of equipment used to access VRS. This issue is currently pending before the FCC. On February 15, 2005, the California Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing filed a Petition for Declaratory Ruling on Interoperability, requesting that the FCC prohibit any VRS provider that receives compensation from the Interstate TRS Fund from purposely restricting its deaf and hard-of-hearing customers to a single VRS provider via the software or hardware of their VRS equipment or through exclusivity agreements with those customers. On March 1, 2005, the FCC released a Public Notice (DA 05-509) seeking public comment on this issue. Comments were due April 15, 2005, and reply comments were due May 2, 2005. The issue of interoperability will be addressed in a future order.

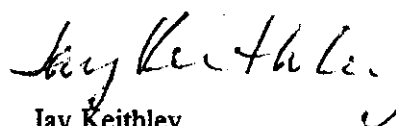
We encourage Ms. Stein to actively participate in proceedings before the Commission to ensure that her opinions are expressed and considered fully. The Commission has available an e-mail service designed to apprise consumers about developments at the Commission, to disseminate consumer information materials prepared by the Commission to a wide audience, and to invite comments from other parties on Commission regulatory proposals. This free service enables consumers to subscribe to and receive FCC fact sheets, consumer brochures and alerts, and public notices, among other consumer information. To subscribe, Ms. Stein should send an e-mail to subscribe@info.fcc.gov and, in either the subject line or the message insert: "subscribe fcc-consumer-info first name last name" (e.g., "subscribe fcc-consumer-info John Doe").

No. of Copies rec'd 2
List ABCDE

The Commission also invites Ms. Stein to visit the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau's Internet web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb> or the Commission's Home Page located at <http://www.fcc.gov>.

A copy of Ms. Stein's correspondence has been placed in the public record for all this proceeding. The Commission appreciates your inquiry. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jay Keithley".

Jay Keithley
Deputy Bureau Chief
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau



Congresswoman

Rosa L. DeLauro

FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

CCB
Policy
Disability

892

**THIRD DISTRICT
CONNECTICUT**

59 Elm Street
Second Floor
New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 562-3718
Fax: (203) 772-2260

Derby
(203) 735-5005

Durham/Middlefield
(860) 344-1159

Middletown
(860) 344-1159

Naugatuck
(203) 729-0204

Stratford
(203) 378-9005

Website:

www.house.gov/dclauro

NOTICE: This telecopy transmission and any accompanying documents may contain confidential or privileged information. They are intended only for use by the individual or entity named on the transmission sheet. If you are not the intended recipient, you are not authorized to disclose, copy, distribute or use in any manner the contents of this information. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify us by telephone immediately so we can arrange retrieval of the faxed documents.

Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2005

To: Diane Atkinson/staff

Phone Number:

Fax Number: 202-418-2806

From: Lou Mangini

E-mail: louis.mangini@mail.house.gov

Pages (including cover): 4

☐ Urgent ☐ Confirm Receipt ☐ Please Reply

Message:

Constituent inquiry, Ms. Ariela Stein. Thank you for your assistance.

2282 RAYBUAN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20615-0703
(202) 225-3881

59 ELM STREET
SECOND FLOOR
NEW HAVEN, CT 06510
(203) 562-3718

DURHAM/MIDDLEFIELD/MIDDLETOWN
(860) 344-1159

STRATFORD
(203) 378-9006



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DeLAURO
2nd DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT
April 19, 2005

CO-CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND
POLICY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON:
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Mrs. Diane Atkinson
Congressional Liaison Specialist
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street Southwest, Rm 8-C453
Washington, D.C. 20554


Dear Mrs. Atkinson:

Enclosed is a letter I recently received from my
constituent, Ms. Ariela Stein of 94 Cutspring Road, Stratford,
Connecticut 06614

I would appreciate it if you could review this
correspondence to determine whether you can be of assistance to
my constituent in resolving this matter. You can notify me of
the outcome through my District Office located at 59 Elm Street,
New Haven, Connecticut 06510. If you need any additional
information, please contact my staff assistant, Louis Mangini, at
203-562-3718. My fax number is 203-772-2260.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,



ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress

RLD/lm
Enclosure

Ariela Stein
94 Cutspring Road
Stratford, CT 06614

April 11, 2005

Rosa L. DeLauro
District Office
59 Elm Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Dear Rosa L. DeLauro:

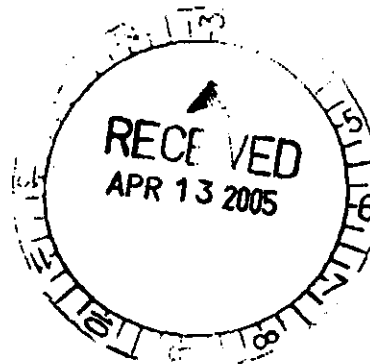
Hello, I would like to explain to you about Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and what is going on with deaf culture currently. VRS is video relay service, which is when deaf people need to contact with hearing people. The problem is that when we get a free VP, then we have to agree with the VRS provider that we can't use other VRS provider with that VP. Since the voice telephone service allows hearing people to call anyone without any delay, unlike the VRS service. So I thought that you willing to join with us and support the idea about having a VRS service with any service. There is an enclosed letter which I have written to FCC.

Thank you for taking your time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Ariela Stein

Ariela Stein



Ariela Stein
94 Cutspring Road
Stratford, CT 06814

April 11, 2005+

Federal Communications Commission
Attn: Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, Consumer Complaints
445 12th Street, SW,
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear FCC,

I support the petition to require VRS interoperability because I am frustrated with the different ways to call people on videophone. When I wanted to contact any hearing people, I have to call VP relay and I will have to wait a quite long time.

I don't like that my VRS is blocked and sometimes I have to wait. As I just said above that when I wanted to call any hearing people and I will have to wait for long time. That wastes our time. Also when we get a free VP, then we have to agree with the VRS provider that we can't use other VRS provider with that VP. While the voice telephone service allows hearing people to call anyone without any delay, unlike the VRS service.

It is very important to make everyone equally accessible by setting up one system just like the telephone. I think it is better off for us, deaf people to have one system just like the telephone so it would be easier for us to call some people, even on VRS. So then people would be pleased and stress-free.

The different ways cause stress and can put us at risk. Please make whole video relay service (VRS) equal with same system as the voice telephone service. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ariela Stein
Ariela Stein

CC: Senator Joseph Lieberman
Senator Christopher Dodd
House of Representative Rosa L. DeLauro